

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01768 021750Z

21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 103451

R 021430Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 384

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1768

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON MINISTERIAL IRREGULARITIES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ON OCTOBER 1ST, GOVT OWNED CHRONICLE AND GRAPHIC REPORTED RELEASE OF LONG AWAITED OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED IN 1971 BY THEN MINISTER OF WORKS AND HYDRAULICS HAMILTON GREEN AND THEN MINISTER OF HOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION DAVID SINGH. IN HIS REPORT, OMBUDSMAN GEORGE VAN SERTIMA FOUND NO SUPPORT FOR ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GREEN WHO IS NOW MINISTER OF COOPERATIVES AND NATIONAL MOBILIZATION, BUT HE CONCLUDED THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO INDICATE SINGH, NOW GUYANA'S AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, HAD USED PUBLIC FUNDS TO BUILD PRIVATE HOME. COMPLETE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER FORMAL PRESENTATION TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTERS WERE MADE BY EUSI KWAYANA, LEADER OF AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT AFRICA (ASCRIA). KWAYANA ALLEGED THAT GREEN HAD COMMITTED VARIOUS CORRUPT ACTS IN OBTAINING LAND AND BUILDING MATERIALS FOR HIS HOUSE AND COMMITTED IRREGULARITIES IN AWARDING CONTRACTS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01768 021750Z

VAN SERTIMA CLEARED GREEN ON THESE CHARGES BUT REPORTEDLY WROTE

QUOTE TERE IS AMPLE REASON TO BE CRITICAL OF THE MINISTER
UNQUOTE.

3. KWAYANA ALSO ALLEGED SINGH HAD FAILED TO AWARD CONTRACTS TO COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES, INFLUENCED AWARDED OF CONTRACTS TO HIS UNCLE, AND USED PUBLIC FUNDS TO BUILD PRIVATE HOME. VAN SERTIMA REPORTEDLY FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT FIRST TWO CHARGES BUT HE FOUND SINGH DID USE PUBLIC MATERIALS AND LABOR TO BUILD HIS HOME.

4. ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION, OMBUDSMAN, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT ON RECOMMENDATION OF PRIME MINISTER, HAS BROAD POWERS TO INVESTIGATE ANY ACTION TAKEN BY GOVT MINISTRY OR DEPARTMENT. OMBUDSMAN REPORTS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT CONSTITUTION IS NOT SPECIFIC ON LEGAL OR OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN BASED ON OMBUDSMAN'S FINDINGS.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ONLY SCRATCHES SURFACE OF WHAT MOST GUYANESE BELIEVE IS WIDESPREAD GOVT CORRUPTION AND MISUSE OF POWER. RELEASE OF REPORT SUGGESTS THAT PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE GOVT EFFICIENCY AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, EVEN IF THERE IS SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO HIS GOVT. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVT OFFICIALS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER WILL BE NEXT STEP IN THIS EFFORT. OPPOSITION GROUPS, HOWEVER, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CLAIM THESE EFFORTS DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.
KREBS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL CONDUCT, CORRUPTION, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GEORGE01768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740279-0311
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741080/aaaacqol.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON MINISTERIAL IRREGULARITIES BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINT, GY, (GREEN, HAMILTON), (SINGH, DAVID), (VAN SERTIMA, GEORGE), (KWAYANA, EUSI)
To: STATE PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005